

almost unanimous opinion of the learned world, no door, not even the smallest crack, has been discovered in the wall which divides between the natural and the supernatural world. Spiritualism has furnished not the slightest tangible proof of the world beyond. To the natural mind, God dwelleth in the thick darkness.

Whether they will, or whether they reject it, men are shut up to that narrow road to the supernatural life, and to that straight gate, over whose portals is written the word *fitness*. "They that shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world." Exhaust all the meaning of that word worthy, and you will understand the fundamental law of the everlasting life. At every gate of the golden city stands the eternal fiat of *selection* which shuts out the unfit, (Rev. 22:15) else the golden city, the heavenly Jerusalem, would be a mockery of all the hopes of purity and peace.

The impregnable strength of the Gospel lies partly in its sanity, its reasonableness. We begin with repentance and faith because these lie at the very root of character. If the glorious heights of immortality seem inaccessible to human weakness, they but show the need of an almighty arm reaching down to us and lifting us out of our lowly estate into the dignity and blessedness of the heavenly world. Thus we learn to trust in the Saviour. We are able to discern in all the painful experiences of our earthly life, its chastenings and sorrows, that divine tutelage for celestial citizenship, that training, which is designed to make us worthy members of an incomparably exalted society, the basis of which is *character*, must forever be *character*, emerged from human imperfection into the divine perfection, and yet even then forever endowed with that energy of progress which is the inseparable law of eternal life.

Christmas Trees

A writer in *Country Life in America* retells the story of one Mark Carr, a jolly, sturdy woodman living among the foothills of the Catskills, who, about fifty years ago originally conceived the idea of sending Christmas trees to the New York market. Then the Christmas tree was a custom mostly celebrated by foreigners. He had heard or read of celebrations in the metropolis, when churches and houses were adorned with pine, hemlock and holly. It occurred to him that the stately young fir trees, covering the mountain side about his modest home, might be made profitable. The chopping and transportation would comprise the whole cost of the enterprise and it could be done at a season when he had little else to do. So, early in December, 1851, Mark and his boys drove two ox sleds, loaded with young trees, through the deep snow to the river at Catskill, whence the father started with them for the city.

One old-fashioned silver dollar secured a strip of sidewalk on the corner of Greenwich and Vesey streets, and there the long sighted mountaineer set forth his forest novelties. Customers speedily appeared, soon buying all his wares at prices that seemed to him positively exorbitant. Highly elated, Mark enjoyed a few days of town life and returned home, but the next year he came again with a much larger stock, and from that time to this the business has continued to increase until now hundreds of thousands of trees are yearly sold from Mark Carr's old corner.

In the Light

A little girl living in a dark alley developed a beautiful geranium which took the first prize at a floral exhibition. It was found upon inquiry that every day she took it to the roof, in the full light of the sun, and as the sun moved the plant was moved so as to get the full benefit of his rays from morning till night. Precisely in the same way is produced the miracle of spiritual growth in the dark and unfriendly environment of this world. They who daily dwell in the light of His countenance find themselves daily growing in beauty of spirit, in all hopefulness, faith and love. The form of that Face is of a divine beauty, and looking therein we are changed into the same image from glory to glory. The beauty of the flower is merely a faint transcript of the beauty and loveliness of God, lent to it thru the light of the sun. So is the beauty of that soul which dwells in God's presence.

Love to Christ

James Hamilton says: Love to Christ is the best incentive to action, the best antidote to idolatry. It adorns the labors which it animates, and hallows the friendships which it overshadows. It is the smell of the ivory wardrobe, the precious perfume of the believer's character, the fragrant mystery which only lingers round those souls which have been to a better clime. Its operation is most marvelous, for when there is enough of it, it makes the timid bold, the slothful diligent. It puts eloquence into the stammering tongue, and energy into the withered arm, and ingenuity into the dull, lethargic brain. It takes possession of the soul, and a joyous luster beams in languid eyes, and wings of new beauty sprout from the lazy, leaden feet. Love to Christ is the soul's true heroism, which courts gigantic feats, which selects the heaviest loads and the hardest toils, which glories in tribulations, and hugs reproaches, and smiles at death till the king of terrors smiles again.

Effectual Prohibition

The managers of the Union Pacific Railroad have served a very timely and sensible notice on its employes, as follows: "It is reported that certain employes are indulging habitually in the use of intoxicating liquors, and that some are frequenters of saloons and places where such liquors are sold. It is a well known fact that the habitual use of intoxicating liquors impairs the efficiency of a person addicted to such use. The duties of the employes of a railroad company, particularly those engaged in the transportation or mechanical departments, are most exacting, and necessarily demand clear judgment and a sound body. It is, therefore, deemed advisable to notify all employes that the habitual use of intoxicating liquors, or the frequenting of saloons or places where such liquors are sold, will be considered sufficient cause for dismissal from service."

John Ruskin: He only is advancing in life whose heart is getting softer, whose blood warmer, whose brain quicker, whose spirit is entering into living peace. And the men who have this life in them are the true lords or kings of the earth—they, and they only.